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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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EXAMINER

CHEN, TE Y

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2171

DATE MAILED: 07/12/2004

16

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/751,862

Applicant(s)

DAKE, STEVEN C. 

Examiner

Susan Y Chen

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 05 May 2004.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-26 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-26 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 14.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

Response to Amendment

This office action is in response to the amendment filed on 05/05/2004.

Claims 1-26 pending for examination, claims 1, 6, 11, 13, 17, 19, 21 and 25 have been amended.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1-2, 4-5, 9, 11-14 and 16-23 and 25-26, are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Balabine et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,442,548) of record, in view of Day et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,249,782).

As to claims 1-2, 4-5, 9, 11-14 and 16-21, Balabine et al. (hereinafter referred as Balabine) discloses a computer system with method, apparatus and storage medium program product to perform the following steps, comprising:

a) a client software [for example, IXFS file system navigation tool, 200, Fig. 2; 302, Fig. 3] to receive a request from a user for a file having a file name, assigns a unique identifier via bits [e.g. the data object pointer (608), Fig. 6; Note: the pointer points to the data object identified by the file name, and the pointer is

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in bit format that is typically smaller than the number of bits of a file name] to the file name and send unique identifier and file name to a database server [for example, Informix® Universal Server, col. 1, lines 60-65; 403, Fig. 3; Fig(s) 5A-5C; Fig. 6; col. 5, lines 5-21, 35-44; col. 6, lines 5-33].

b) a database server locates file information using the file name and identifier, and stores corresponding file information [col. 5, lines 55-66; col. 6, lines 47-54];

c) an interconnect system transports the unique identifier and file name between the client and server [IXFS, 300, Fig. 3; col. 5, lines 23-32, Fig. 6].

Balabine did not specifically disclose that the unique identifier represents the file name with fewer bits than the file name.

However, Day et al. (hereinafter referred as Day) discloses an information processing system having unique identifier represents a file name with fewer bits than the file name [Title, Abstract, col. 3, lines 1-28].

Thus, In considering the combination of teachings of Balabine and Day, an ordinary skilled person in the art would be motivated to further modify the combined system with a unique identifier represents the file name with fewer bits than the file name. Because by doing so, a file name identification is more meaningful than a virtual address to the client/server application. Furthermore, by using the short bits to represent a lengthy file name can allow the system to reduce the I/O payload during message passing in the client/server network.

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As to claim 22, the combined system of Balabine and Day further discloses that the client comprises an operating system service module [for example, Balabine: OS Kernel, 702, Fig. 7].

As to claim 23, the combined system of Balabine and Day further discloses that the server comprises an intermediate service module [for example, Balabine: 707, 708, Fig. 7; 807, 808, Fig. 8].

As to claim 25, the combined system of Balabine and Day further discloses the system having means to perform file management including:

- a) a file system interface [for example, Balabine: IXFS file system navigation tool, 200, Fig. 2] to receive a request [e.g., Balabine: the read request from applications, col. 5, lines 5 -10] for a file having name and assigned unique identifier [e.g., Balabine: the Data Object Pointer (608), Fig. 6] to the file name [e.g., Balabine: the File Name (601), Fig. 6];
- b) a file system manager to locate file information using the file name and store file information using the unique identifier [for example, Balabine: IXFS Daemon Module, 708, Fig. 7; 808, Fig. 8; col. 9., lines 15-37];
- c) a communication system to communicate the unique identifier and file name between the file system interface and file system manager [for example, Balabine: NFS Front-end Daemon, 804, Fig. 8; col. 9, lines 38-53].

As to claim 26, the recited features are inherent of network File System (NFS).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103 (Continue)

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

1. Claims 3, 6-8, 10 and 15, are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Balabine (U.S. Patent No. 6,442,548) of record, in view of Day et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,249,782) and further in view of Matsumani et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,619,690) of record.

As to claims 3, 6-8, 10 and 15, the combined system of Balabine and Day discloses all the features as claimed by applicant, except the combined system did not expressively teach issuing an acknowledgement message from the server to a client after receiving file access request from the client.

However, Matsumani et al. discloses a server issuing an acknowledgement message to a client after receiving file access request from the client [105, Fig. 5; col. 3, lines 43-54]. Thus, It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the

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teachings of Balabine, Day and Matsumani, because by applying Matsumani's message notification means in the file handlers of the combined system of Balabine and Day, would allow the combined system having a two-way communication mechanism between client and server, so as to detect any possible network communication failures and ensure the system integrity.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103 (Continue)

Claim 24, is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Balabine (U.S. Patent No. 6,442,548) of record, in view of Day et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,249,782) and Matsumani et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,619,690) of record and further in view of Applicant Admitted prior art (AAPA) of record.

As to claim 24, the combined system of Balabine, Day and Matsumani disclose the interconnected system operates in accordance with a peripheral component interconnect system [for example, see Fig. 2], they did not specifically disclosed the interconnect system operates in I2O.

However, AAPA specifically discloses I2O is a conventional existing technique [Page 9, lines 16-20 of Applicant's specification]. Thus, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the conventional I2O technique at the combined system of Balabine, Day and Matsumani, because by having an existing I2O as a subcomponent in the combined system would enlarge the system services scope.

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Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-26 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Susan Y Chen whose telephone number is (703) 308-1155. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday from 7:00-4:30.

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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Safet Metjahic can be reached on (703) 308-1436. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Susan Y Chen
Examiner
Art Unit 2171

June 30, 2004



UYEN LE
PRIMARY EXAMINER